2016 CENSUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ministry of Finance ***Fact Sheet 6*** Ontario

Mother Tongue and Language

This fact sheet looks at mother tongue and language information released by Statistics Canada as part of the 2016 Census.

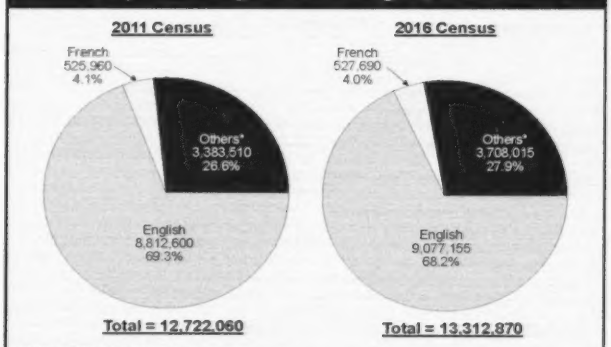
Share of Population with an Official Language as Mother Tongue Declined

- In 2016, 9.1 million Ontarians reported English as their mother tongue, an increase of 3% from 2011. However, the share declined to 68.2% from 69.3% in 2011.
- There were 527,690 people reporting French as their mother tongue in Ontario in 2016, almost unchanged from 2011. They represented 4.0% of population in 2016, a modest change from 4.1% in 2011.
- In 2016, 3.7 million Ontarians were Allophones (people with a mother tongue other than English or French), up from 3.4 million in 2011. The share of this group increased to 27.9% from 26.6% in 2011.
- The 2016 Census showed that English remained the language spoken most often at home. Also, the percentage of Ontarians speaking English most often at home (80.5%) was substantially higher than the share of the population with English as mother tongue (68.2%).

Some Non-official Mother Tongues Grew Significantly

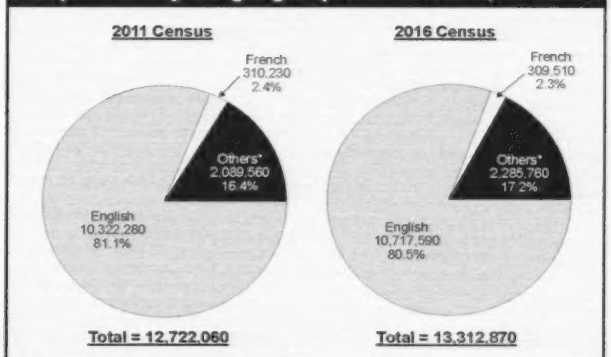
- Around 200 languages were reported by Ontarians as mother tongue in the 2016 Census. The top 25 of these accounted for 98.3% of Ontario's total population.
- Among mother tongues spoken by over 40,000 Ontarians in 2016 (25 of them), the fastest growing since 2011 were Arabic (31.0%), Hindi (26.5%), Persian (24.7%), Bengali (23.7%), Urdu (21.5%), Chinese (18.0), and Tagalog (17.6%).
- In 2016, Chinese languages remained the most numerous non-official mother tongue group in Ontario. Almost 628,000 people reported one of the Chinese languages as their mother tongue, representing 4.7% of Ontario's population, an increase from 4.1% in 2011. Of all different Chinese languages Mandarin and Cantonese accounted for 46.6% and 46.1%, correspondingly.
- Italian remained the fourth largest mother tongue in Ontario, but its numbers declined 7.2% since 2011. Punjabi rose to the fifth place, pushing Spanish to the sixth place. Arabic rose to the seventh. Tagalog, Urdu and Portuguese were in the eighth, ninth and tenth place, respectively.

Population by Mother Tongue, Ontario



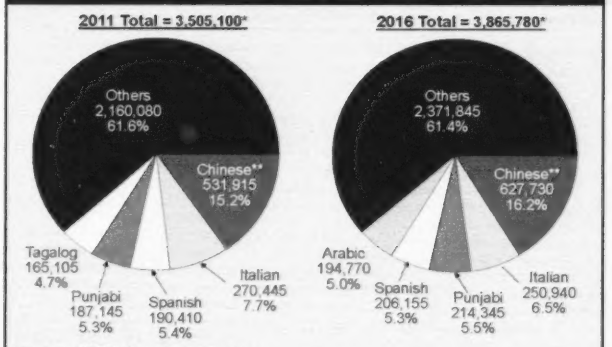
* Others = Non-official languages.
Note: Mother tongue is the first language learned at home.
Source: Statistics Canada.

Population by Language Spoken at Home, Ontario



* Others = Non-official languages.
Source: Statistics Canada.

Non-official Mother Tongues, Ontario



* Single and Multiple language responses.
** Including Mandarin, Cantonese and other mother tongues in the Chinese languages group.
Source: Statistics Canada.

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Labour Economics Branch

Toronto CMA: Largest Proportion of Allophones

- More than four in 10 people had a mother tongue other than English or French in the Toronto Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) in 2016.
- The Chinese language group remained the dominant non-official language group in the Toronto CMA, having been reported by 531,575 people, or 19.4% of the CMA's population whose mother tongue was neither English nor French.
- Punjabi rose to the second place with 186,030 people, pushing Italian (164,510) to the third place, followed by Tagalog (161,515) and Urdu (148,625).

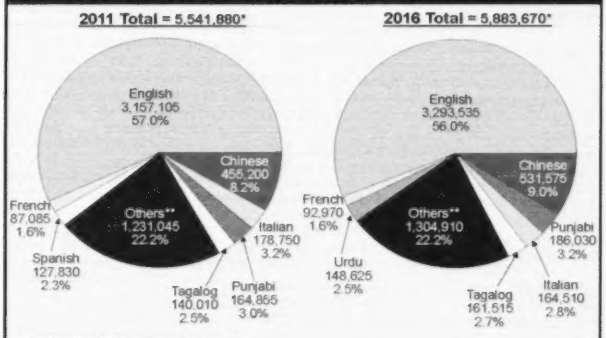
Other Ontario Census Metropolitan Areas

- Peterborough, Belleville, and Brantford CMAs had the highest shares of Anglophones in their population, at 93.0%, 92.1% and 88.4%, respectively.
- The CMAs with the highest shares of Francophones were Greater Sudbury (26.6%), Ottawa-Gatineau (Ont. part) (16.3%), Kingston (3.5%), and Windsor and St. Catharines - Niagara (both at 3.3%).
- Toronto had the highest share of non-official languages as mother tongue (44.7%), followed by Kitchener - Cambridge - Waterloo (24.0%), Windsor (23.2%), and Hamilton (22.3%).

Ontario Municipalities (Population 5,000+)

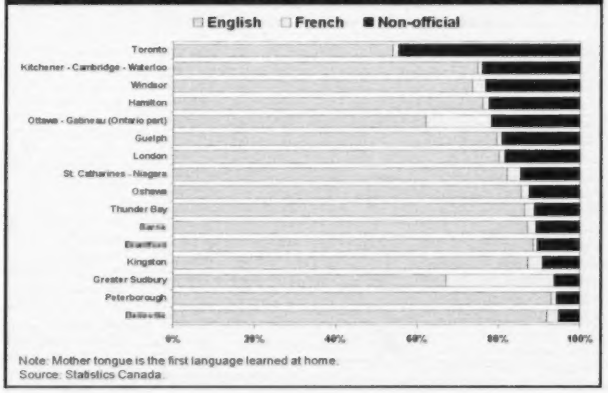
- Among Ontario's municipalities of at least 5,000 people in 2016, Markham had the highest share of non-official languages as mother tongue (62.3%), followed by Richmond Hill (61.0%), Vaughan (52%), Mississauga (50.2%), Brampton (48.4%), and Toronto (45.7%).
- Compared to 2011, the share of non-official languages of these municipalities also increased, except Toronto where the share of non-official languages declined slightly.
- The highest shares of Anglophones were found in the municipalities of Stone Mills (96.4%), St. Clair (95.8%), Georgian Bluffs and Brockton (both at 95.6%), and Greater Napanee (95.5%).
- The highest shares of Francophones were in the municipalities of Hearst (87.6%), Hawkesbury (79.1%), Alfred & Plantagenet (76.6%), The Nation (67.5), and Kapuskasing (66.7%).

Mother Tongue Distribution, Toronto CMA



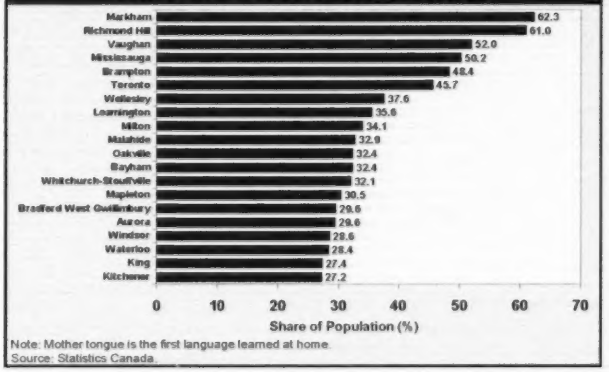
* Single and Multiple language responses.
** Others = Total minus sum of the listed languages.
Source: Statistics Canada.

Mother Tongue Distribution, Ontario CMAs, 2016



Note: Mother tongue is the first language learned at home.
Source: Statistics Canada.

Ontario Municipalities (5,000+) with High Shares of Non-Official Mother Tongues, 2016



Note: Mother tongue is the first language learned at home.
Source: Statistics Canada.

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